



**BILLING CODE (3410-XY-U)**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

**Inviting Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Applications for Grants to Provide Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems**

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of three individual grants: two single grants not to exceed \$929,111 together from the rural transportation funds appropriated for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and another single \$232,278 grant for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes' (FRNATs) (collectively "Programs") from funds appropriated for the RBEG program. RBS will administer these awards under the RBEG program and 7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(2) for fiscal year (FY) 2013. Each grant is to be competitively awarded to an eligible applicant which is a qualified national non-profit organization. Two grants are for the provision of technical assistance to rural transportation (RT) projects and the other grant will be for the provision of technical assistance to RT projects operated by FRNAT's only.

All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of applications in the USDA Rural Development State Office is no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on [INSERT 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. Applications received at a USDA Rural Development State Office after that date will not be considered for FY 2013 funding.

**ADDRESSES:** Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office to receive copies of the application package. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

**Alabama**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Sterling Centre, Suite 601  
4121 Carmichael Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683  
(334) 279-3400/TDD (334) 279-3495

**Alaska**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
800 West Evergreen, Suite 201  
Palmer, AK 99645-6539  
(907) 761-7705/TDD (907) 761-8905

**Arizona**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
230 N 1st Ave., Suite 206  
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706  
(602) 280-8701/TDD (602) 280-8705

**Arkansas**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building  
700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225  
(501) 301-3200/TDD (501) 301-3279

**California**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
430 G Street, Agency #4169  
Davis, CA 95616-4169  
(530) 792-5800/TDD (530) 792-5848

**Colorado**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Denver Federal Center  
Building 56, Room 2300  
P.O. Box 25426  
Denver, CO 80225-0426  
(720) 544-2903/TDD (800) 659-3656

**Delaware-Maryland**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200  
Dover, DE 19904  
(302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585

**Florida/Virgin Islands**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010  
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010  
(352) 338-3402/TDD (352) 338-3499

**Georgia**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Stephens Federal Building  
355 E. Hancock Avenue, Stop 300  
Athens, GA 30601-2768  
(706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034

**Hawaii/Guam/American Samoa/  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands/  
Republic of Palau/Federated States of Micronesia/  
Republic of the Marshall Islands**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 311  
154 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 933-8380/TDD (808) 933-8321

**Idaho**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
9173 West Barnes Dr., Suite A1  
Boise, ID 83709  
(208) 378-5600/TDD (208) 378-5644

**Illinois**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
2118 West Park Court, Suite A  
Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 403-6200/TDD (217) 403-6240

**Indiana**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
5975 Lakeside Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46278  
(317) 290-3100 ext. 4/TDD (317) 290-3343

**Iowa**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 873  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 284-4663/TDD (515) 284-4858

**Kansas**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66604-4040  
(785) 271-2700/TDD (785) 271-2767

**Kentucky**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200  
Lexington, KY 40503  
(859) 224-7300/TDD (859) 224-7422

**Louisiana**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3727 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302  
(318) 473-7921/TDD (318) 473-7655

**Maine**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4  
P.O. Box 405  
Bangor, ME 04402-0405  
(207) 990-9160/TDD (207) 942-7331

**Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
451 West Street  
Amherst, MA 01002-2999  
(413) 253-4300/TDD (413) 253-4590

**Michigan**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 324-5190/TDD (517) 324-5169

**Minnesota**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 410  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1853  
(651) 602-7800/TDD (651) 602-3799

**Mississippi**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Ste 831  
100 West Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39269  
(601) 965-4316/TDD (601) 965-5850

**Missouri**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Parkade Ctr., Suite 235  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 876-0976/TDD (573) 876-9480

**Montana**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
2229 Boot Hill Court  
P.O. Box 850  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 585-2530/TDD (406) 585-2562

**Nebraska**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Rom 152  
100 Centennial Mall N.  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 437-5551/TDD (402) 437-5093

**Nevada**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1390 South Curry Street  
Carson City, NV 89703-9910  
(775) 887-1222/TDD (775) 885-0633

**New Jersey**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
5<sup>th</sup> floor North, Ste 500  
8000 Midlantic Drive  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
(856) 787-7700/TDD (856) 787-7784

**New Mexico**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
6200 Jefferson Street NE, Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 761-4953/TDD (505) 761-4938

**New York**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
441 South Salina Street, Suite 357  
Syracuse, NY 13202-2541  
(315) 477-6400/TDD (315) 477-6447

**North Carolina**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 873-2000/TDD (919) 873-2003

**North Dakota**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 208  
220 East Rosser  
P.O. Box 1737  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1737  
(701) 530-2037/TDD (701) 530-2113

**Ohio**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 507  
200 N. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-2418  
(614) 255-2400/TDD (614) 255-2554

**Oklahoma**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
100 USDA, Suite 108  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2654  
(405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007

**Oregon**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 801  
Portland, OR 97232  
(503) 414-3366/TDD (503) 414-3387

**Pennsylvania**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996  
(717) 237-2299/TDD (717) 237-2261

**Puerto Rico**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
IBM Building, Ste 601  
654 Munoz Rivera Avenue  
San Juan, PR 00936-6106  
(787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332

**South Carolina**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Strom Thurmond Federal Building  
1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-5697

**South Dakota**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 210  
200 4th Street, SW  
Huron, SD 57350  
(605) 352-1100/TDD (605) 352-1147

**Tennessee**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300  
Nashville, TN 37203-1071  
(615) 783-1300

**Texas**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Suite 102  
101 South Main  
Temple, TX 76501  
(254) 742-9700/TDD (254) 742-9712

**Utah**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building  
125 South State Street, Room 4311  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138  
(801) 524-4324/TDD (801) 524-3309

**Vermont/New Hampshire**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
City Center, 3rd Floor  
87 Main Street, Suite 324  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
(802) 828-6031/TDD (802) 223-6365

**Virginia**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Culpeper Building, Ste 238  
1606 Santa Rosa Road  
Richmond, VA 23229  
(804) 287-1551/TDD (804) 287-1753



**Washington**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1835 Blacklake Boulevard, SW, Suite B  
Olympia, WA 98512-5715  
(360) 704-7740/TDD (360) 704-7760

**West Virginia**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 101  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
(304) 284-4860/TDD (304) 284-4836

**Wisconsin**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
5417 Clem's Way  
Stevens Point, WI 54482  
(715) 345-7671/TDD (715) 345-7614

**Wyoming**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
100 East B Street, Room 1005  
P.O. Box 11005  
Casper, WY 82601  
(307) 233-6700/TDD (307) 233-6733

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please contact the USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Overview**

*Federal Agency:* Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

*Solicitation Opportunity Title:* Rural Business Enterprise Grants.

*Announcement Type:* Initial Solicitation Announcement.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:* 10.769.

*Dates:* Application Deadline: Completed applications must be received in the USDA Rural Development State Office no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on [INSERT 60

DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], to be eligible for FY 2013 grant funding. Applications received after this date will not be eligible for FY 2013 grant funding.

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

A. Purpose of the Program. The purpose of this program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas.

B. Statutory Authority. This programs is authorized under section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)).

Regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. The program is administered on behalf of RBS at the State level by the USDA Rural Development State Offices.

Assistance provided to rural areas under the Programs may include the provision of on-site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related non-profit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

Awards under the RBEG passenger transportation program will be made on a competitive basis using specific selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, and in accordance with section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. Information required to be in the application package includes Forms SF 424, "Application for Federal Assistance;" Form RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information;" Scope of Work Narrative; Income Statement; Balance Sheet or Audit for previous 3

years; AD-1047, “Debarment/Suspension Certification;” AD-1048, “Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion;” AD-1049, “Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements;” SF LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;” RD 400-1, “Equal Opportunity Agreement;” RD 400-4, “Assurance Agreement;” a letter stating Board authorization to obtain assistance; and a letter certifying citizenship, as referenced in 7 CFR 1942.307(b). For the FRNAT grant, which must benefit FRNATs, at least 75 percent of the benefits of the project must be received by members of FRNATs. The project that scores the greatest number of points based on the RBEG selection criteria and the discretionary points will be selected for each grant.

Applicants must be qualified national non-profit organizations with experience in providing technical assistance and training to rural communities Nation-wide for the purpose of improving passenger transportation service or facilities. To be considered "national," RBS requires a qualified organization to provide evidence that it operates RT assistance programming Nation-wide. There is not a requirement to use the grant funds in a multi-State area. Grants will be made to qualified national non-profit organizations for the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation services or facilities.

### *Definitions*

C. Definition of Terms. The definitions applicable to this Notice are published at 7 CFR 1942.304.

D. Application awards. The Agency will review, evaluate, and score applications received in response to this Notice based on the provisions in 7 CFR 1942, subpart G and as indicated in this Notice. However, the Agency advises all interested parties that the applicant bears the burden in preparing and submitting an application in response to this Notice whether or not funding is appropriated for these programs in FY 2013.

## **II. Award Information**

*Type of Award:* Grant.

*Fiscal Year Funds:* FY 2013.

*Total Funding:* \$1,161,389

*Approximate Number of Awards:* Three.

*Average Award:* Two single grants not to exceed \$929,111 together and another single \$232,278 grant for FRNAT's

*Anticipated Award Date:* [INSERT 105 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], subject to the availability of funding.

## **III. Eligibility Information**

### *A. Eligible Applicants*

To be considered eligible, an entity must be a qualified national non-profit organization serving rural areas as evidenced in its organizational documents and demonstrated experience. Grants will be competitively awarded to qualified national non-profit organizations. As mentioned later in this Notice, regarding corporate felony convictions and corporate Federal tax delinquencies, applicants that are not delinquent on

any Federal debt or otherwise disqualified from participation in this program are eligible to apply. All other restrictions in this Notice will apply.

*B. Cost Sharing or Matching*

Matching funds are not required.

*C. Other Eligibility Requirements*

Applications will only be accepted from qualified national non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance for rural transportation.

*D. Completeness Eligibility*

Applications will not be considered for funding if they do not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility or are missing required elements. If due to a change made in the appropriations act for FY 2013, additional information is needed, then applicants that submitted complete applications prior to the application deadline will be provided additional time in which to provide that information.

**IV. Fiscal Year 2013 Application and Submission Information:**

*A. Address to Request Application Package*

For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice to obtain copies of the application package.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications through the Grants.gov Web site at:

<http://www.grants.gov>. Applications may be submitted in either electronic or paper

format. Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site. Applications may not be submitted by electronic mail.

- When you enter the Grants.gov Web site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site as well as the hours of operation. USDA Rural Development strongly recommends that you begin the application process through Grants.gov in sufficient time to complete the application before the deadline date.
- You may submit all documents electronically through the Web site, including all information typically included on the application and all necessary assurances and certifications.
- After electronically submitting an application through the Web site, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.
- USDA Rural Development may request that the applicant provide original signatures on forms at a later date.
- If applicants experience technical difficulties on the closing date and are unable to meet the deadline, you may submit a paper copy of your application to your respective Rural Development State Office. Paper applications submitted to a Rural Development State Office must meet the closing date and local time deadline.
- Please note that applicants can locate the downloadable application package for this program by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

All applicants, whether filing applications through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) or by paper, must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711 or at <http://www.dnb.com>.

*B. Content and Form of Submission*

An application must contain all of the required elements. Each application received in a USDA Rural Development State Office will be reviewed to determine if it is consistent with the eligible purposes contained in section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. Each selection priority criterion outlined in 7 CFR 1942.305(b)(3), must be addressed in the application. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criterion and will impact the overall evaluation of the application. Copies of 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, will be provided by any interested applicant making a request to a USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

All projects to receive technical assistance through these passenger transportation grant funds are to be identified when the applications are submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office. Multiple project applications must identify each individual project, indicate the amount of funding requested for each individual project, and address the criteria as stated above for each individual project.

For multiple-project applications, the average of the individual project scores will be the score for that application.

### *C. Submission Dates and Times*

*Application Deadline Date:* No later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) [INSERT 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]

*Explanation of Deadlines:* Applications must be in the USDA Rural Development State Office by the deadline date.

## **V. Application Review Information**

RBS will score applications based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and will select grantees subject to the grantees satisfactory submission of the additional items required by 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and the USDA Rural Development Letter of Conditions. The amount of an RT grant may be adjusted, in the RBS's discretion, to enable RBS to award RT grants to the two applications with the highest priority scores. Applicants selected for award who have their grant request adjusted, will have the opportunity to either rescind their request or modify their proposal to reflect the adjusted award. RBS must approve the modified proposal. RBS will select the next highest ranking application(s) for award when any initially selected application is rescinded or when RBS and the initially selected applicant cannot reach an agreement on a modified proposal.



## **VI. Award Administration Information**

### *A. Award Notices*

Successful applicants will receive notification for funding from the USDA Rural Development State Office. Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations before the grant award will be approved. Unsuccessful applications will receive notification by mail.

### *B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements*

Additional requirements that apply to grantees selected for this program can be found in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. Grantees must further comply with applicable provisions of 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, 3019, and 3052.

## **VII. Agency Contacts**

For general questions about this announcement, please contact your USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

## **VIII. Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the paperwork burden has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0022.

### **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act**

All applicants, in accordance with 2 CFR part 25, must have a DUNS number, which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711 or online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Similarly, all applicants must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting an application. Applicants may register for the SAM at <http://www.sam.gov>. All recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive total compensation in accordance with 2 CFR part 170.

### **Corporate Felony Convictions and Corporate Felony Tax Delinquencies**

Applications from corporate applicants submitted under this Notice must include Form AD 3030, “Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants.” Corporate applicants who receive an award under this Notice will be required to sign Form AD 3031, “Assurance Regarding Felony Conviction or Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants.”

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or

funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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Lillian E. Salerno  
Acting Administrator  
Rural Business-Cooperative Service

\_\_\_ June 25, 2013 \_\_\_  
DATE

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